AVENGERS

TIMESLIDE

HARRAS ♦ KAVANAGH ♦ CRUZ ♦ ROSS ♦ KOBLISH

TIMESLIDE

THE CROSSING

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THE FIRST RUMBLES WERE FELT BEFORE DAWN.

ARTIFICIAL THUNDER AND LIGHTNING ERUPTED UP FROM THE HEART OF MANHATTAN, TEARING APART WHAT LITTLE WAS LEFT OF THE NIGHT...

POOM!

...TRUMPETING A STORM TO THREATEN THE WORLD ENTIRE.

POOM!

POOM!

BACK-UP UNITS ARE ON THE WAY--!

EVACUATE THE PERIMETERS FOR 'EM NOW!

MOVE IT, MEN, MOVE IT!

GET EVERYONE BEHIND THE BARRICADES...

...INCLUDING THOSE IDIOT PRESS-CREWS!

YOU CAN TRY, BLUE-BOYS.

BUT YOU'VE GOT YOUR JOB TO DO, AND WE'VE GOT--

--OURS!?

GOOD LORD--!?

AVENGERS MANSION IS UNDER SIEGE...

...BY THE AVENGERS!?

FINALLY.

ZTTZ

KRZZK

CHOOM

WHOK

THE CONQUEROR'S MINIONS--KNOWN IN WHISPERS ACROSS THE CENTURIES AS ANACHRONAUTS--HAVE TAINTED THEIR HOME AND HEADQUARTERS FOR FAR TOO LONG NOW...

...AND THIS GATHERED ASSEMBLAGE OF HEROES INTENDS TO ONCE MORE RECLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS.

WHATEVER THE COST.

SHRAAK!

GIVE IT UP, ANACHRO-GNATS!

STARK'S SO-CALLED SECURITY-TOWERS ARE GOING *DOWN* N--

FLOOM

--OWARGH!

IN THIS WAR OF WARS, THE SIZE-SHIFTING GIANT-MAN IS CERTAINLY NOT THE FIRST TO FALL TO TREACHERY.

LOOK OUT--!

THEY 'RE COMIN' IN FOR THE *KILL!*

NO FEAR, *HANK*...

...I'M *ON* IT!

TZZT

TZZT

THE BLOOD OF THEIR OWN HAS ALREADY BEEN SPILT BY ONE THEY *TRUSTED* BEYOND ALL OTHERS, A FRIEND AND FOUNDER OF THE TEAM ITSELF.

AT LEAST FIVE BURIED, AND ANOTHER TRANSFORMED BEYOND RECOGNITION--HER HUMANITY SACRIFICED TO A MADMAN'S MANIPULATIONS--

KHOOM

OH, GOD...

--BUT NO MORE SHOULD SUFFER, NONE SHALL DIE...

PZING!

...SO LONG AS A SINGLE AVENGER REMAINS STANDING.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

B-BUT YOU... YOU'RE D-DEAD...

MOST OBVIOUSLY NOT.

HOWEVER, IF YOU AND YOUR FELLOW REPORTERS FAIL TO RETREAT QUICKLY ENOUGH...

...YOU MOST ASSUREDLY WILL BE.

NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON, APPARENTLY.

THE NEWS-BULLETINS HARDLY DID JUSTICE TO THE SITUATION HERE.

VISION IS RIGHT, THOR...

ZTTZ

...AND WE'LL NEVER MAKE ANY HEADWAY WHILE WE'RE BUSY DEFENDING NON-COMBATANTS.

YOU'VE GOT TO *CLEAR* THE GROUNDS AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

AS YOU WISH, *BLACK WIDOW*, I SHALL TRY.

WHRRR

BUT IN MY *CURRENT* CONDITION...

...I CAN MAKE *NO* PROMISES!

THOUGH I HAVE BEEN ABSENT FOR MANY MONTHS, I HAVE AGREED TO RETURN TO THE AVENGERS FOR THIS *SINGLE MISSION* BECAUSE THE DIRE NATURE OF THE THREAT IS TOO GREAT.

WWHRRR

HOLY--!

THE THUNDER GOD BOUGHT US A LITTLE BREATHING SPACE, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST.

AND WITH THE CIVILIANS OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE, WE DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK AGAINST THE LAST FEW ANA-CHRONAUTS LEFT INSIDE.

ZTTZ

IT'S *NO GOOD!* THEY HAVE THE PLACE TOO WELL PROTECTED!

IF WE GIVE UP HOPE NOW, *MS. VAN DYNE,* WE ARE *ALL* SURELY DOOMED!

HE'S RIGHT, *JAN.* WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE *DOOR.* IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO END THIS INSANITY!

TZZT

TZZT

JARVIS, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

THERE'S *NO* GUARANTEE YOU'LL COME BACK.

I *HAVE* TO GO, MISS *CRYSTAL.* I'M THE ONLY ONE HE'LL RECOGNIZE.

I CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS, MISS. I CAN'T!

SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, A NEW VOICE JOINS THE CACOPHONY OF CHAOS.

AVENGERS! WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHO THE--?

SOMEONE'S HERE, GANG! SOMEONE ELSE...

THE MADDENINGLY FAMILIAR VOICE OF ONE LOST TO THEM TWICE ALREADY...

BLAST-- I'M SHIFTING--

MS. DEMARA--?

YELLOW-JACKET!?

IT CAN'T... COULDN'T BE...

...GONE YET AGAIN.

A MOMENTARY OPENING, AVENGERS...

SKRAASH!

ZTTTZ

AND WE'RE IN!

WASTE NO MORE PRECIOUS TIME ON THE LIKES OF THESE, FELLOW WARRIORS...

"...WE MUST REACH THE *BASEMENT!*"

BA-DOOM!

SOMETHING *COMES,* UNCHECKED BY THE FORCE OF THE *GALE.*

SOMETHING *HUGE.*

WHIRRR

BA-DOOM! BA-DOOM!

IS THAT YOU, FRIEND PYM?

I FEAR THAT I WILL BE *UNABLE* TO MAINTAIN SUCH WINDS MUCH--

NO MATTER, GODLING.

IT IS ALL BUT *OVER* NOW.

WHOK!

uhnn...

IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF THE VIOLATED MANSION THE EYE OF THE STORM--A MYSTERIOUS DOOR WHOSE PRESENCE DEFIES ALL LOGIC AND EXPLANATION--

--AWAITS THE ONE AMONG THEM WHO HAS GLIMPSED ITS SECRETS.

'S TRUTH.

HERE, NOW--FACING THE CURSED PORTAL ITSELF--IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME...

...THE CODE-SEQUENCE IMPARTED BY THE LASS WE KNEW AS LUNA.

TEK TEK

TAK

YOU KNOW I'D BE THE LAST TO WISH MY DAUGHTER'S SACRIFICE WASTED, HERCULES...

...BUT WE'VE GOT TO WEIGH THE RISKS INVOLVED, THE POTENTIAL PERIL TO THE TIME-STREAM.

NO--! WE HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE...

AGREED.

WHATEVER THE CONSEQUENCES, WE MUST--

HURRY, HERC!

TIME'S THE ENEMY NOW!

SOME-THING APPROACH-ES, NEARING BY THE SECOND...

BA-DOOM! BA-DOOM! BA-DOOM! BA-DOOM!

JUST A MATTER OF MOMENTS, FRIENDS, AND--

KLIK

THE DOOR IS YOURS.

A HOLO-IMAGE OF IRON MAN--!?

YOU'VE DONE IT NOW, CHAMPIONS.

AND YOU CAN DO THE REST, AS WELL.

BUT IT CAN ALSO WORK AGAINST YOU...

CHOOM

THE GATEWAY UN-LOCKS TOO LATE, FOOLS.

THE TWIN CALLED TOBIAS--!?

TIME IS MY FATHER'S KING-DOM, FROM FIRST DAWN TO FINAL DUSK.

AND THE FUTURE OF THE AVENGERS IS WRITTEN IN STONE.

TOMBSTONES.

THIS ONE WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU ALL!

NOTHING BUT EMPTY THREATS, KIDNAPPER OF THE COTATI...

"...ONCE THE PORTAL SWINGS WIDE!"

AND WITH THOSE SIMPLE WORDS-- AND THE EVEN SIMPLER ACT OF OPENING A DOOR--

--ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.

WHSSH

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SINGLE HERO TOO LARGE TO FIT THROUGH THE GAPING HOLE IN TIME/SPACE--AND THE FEW HE CAN GRASP IN ONE HAND--

--FRIENDS AND FOE ALIKE ARE SWEPT UP IN A TIDEPOOL OF TEMPORAL ENERGIES...

...DRAGGED SCREAMING AND STRUGGLING INTO THE UNKNOWN.

LOST TO THE RAGING RAPIDS OF THE TIMESTREAM.

THE VISION, JARVIS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND THE BLACK WIDOW CAN ONLY WATCH HELPLESSLY AS THE THRASHING TOBIAS IS CARRIED PAST THEM-- KICKING AND CURSING--

--WHILE THE ENIGMATIC ALIEN NAMED CENTURY REACHES OUT TO THEM, OFFERING ONE LAST CHANCE AT SALVATION.

THIS PLACE IS NOT UNFAMILIAR TO ME, AVENGERS, I HAVE *NAVIGATED* ITS COURSING CURRENTS BEFORE.

GRAB *HOLD* OF MY STAFF-- QUICKLY--

--PARALLAX WILL GUIDE YOU ALL...

"...TO OUR GOAL!"

WH-WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

WHY ARE YOU *DRESSED* LIKE THAT, WEARING THOSE BIZARRE COSTUMES? LIKE THE LEGENDARY CAPTAIN AMERICA AND SOME KIND OF...OF...

DON'T *SAY* IT, BUSTER.

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, DON'T EVEN *THINK* IT.

BUT WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE IN THE BASEMENT? *HOW* DID YOU GET--

SLOW *DOWN*, SIR.

WE'LL ANSWER *ALL* YOUR QUESTIONS AS SOON AS WE KNOW HOW.

CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE OTHERS, BUT I'M JUST A LITTLE *CONFUSED* MYSELF RIGHT NOW...

IT'S *NOT* POSSIBLE!

YOU LOOK *EXACTLY* LIKE...LIKE...

A GOOD DECADE *YOUNGER* FROM APPEARANCES, BUT EDWIN JARVIS* NONETHE--

uhnn...

AAAK--!

THE CLOSER YOU COME, THE MORE MY HEAD *POUNDS*...

NO!

...ME!?

OF COURSE.

WE WERE *AFRAID* OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

CAN'T REMEMBER *EVERY*THING JUST YET, BUT IT'S *STARTING* TO COME TO-GETHER.

WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAVELED *TEN YEARS* INTO OUR OWN *PAST.*

AND ALL I KNOW FOR *SURE* IS...

...TIME *IS* *LIMITED.*

WE HAVE TO MOVE *FAST*...

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

I MAY RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE *UNI-FORM,* CAPTAIN--IF, INDEED, THAT *IS* WHO YOU TRULY ARE--

--BUT I AM *HARDLY* PREPARED TO ALLOW YOU UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE REST OF THE STARK FAMILY MANSE.

"*STARK*"!?

THAT'S *IT!* SOME-THING ABOUT STARK...

...*TONY* STARK!

ACROSS TOWN...

...OTHER WHEELS ARE ALREADY IN MOTION.

A YOUNG MAN--A BOY, REALLY, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES--TEARS THROUGH THE EARLY-MORNING STREETS OF NEW YORK WITH ABANDON.

NOT BECAUSE HE HAS TO, NOT BECAUSE HE MUST--OR EVEN SHOULD--

--JUST BECAUSE HE CAN.

DYNAMIC, RICH, AND BRIGHT BEYOND MEASURE--WITH AN EQUALLY BEAUTIFUL AND EXCITING GIRLFRIEND BY HIS SIDE, AND NO OBLIGATIONS TO ANYTHING BUT HIS SCHOOLWORK--

--NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD TONY STARK RACES TOWARDS THE BRIGHTEST OF FUTURES.

WHY ARE YOU STOPPING HERE, HON?

THIS ISN'T YOUR HOUSE, OR MINE, FOR THAT MATTER. AND MY PARENTS, AT LEAST, ARE EXPECTING ME *SOME*TIME BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK IS OVER.

JUST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A RED LIGHT, *MEREDITH*...

...FOR ONE LAST MOMENT ALONE TOGETHER.

NEXT STOP--

--HOME SWEET HOME.

LOOK, UNCLE BEN, LOOK!

THERE'S THAT RADICAL CAR I SHOWED YOU IN MY MAGAZINE...

SKREEEE

NOW, MAY, THE LAD'S GOT TO TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIMSELF SOONER OR LATER...

...THE ONE I'M SAVING UP MY ALLOWANCE FOR

YOU GET BACK ON THE SIDEWALK RIGHT THIS INSTANT, PETER, BEFORE--

...WE WON'T BE AROUND FOREVER, YOU KNOW.

EVEN IN THIS CITY OF SKYSCRAPERS, ONE SPECIAL STRUCTURE TOWERS OVER MOST OTHERS...

...HIDING MUCH IN ITS SHADOW.

'SCUSE ME, YOUNG-STER...

...YOU LOOK A MITE LOST BACK HERE.

THIS IS THE CELEBRATED *BAXTER BUILDING*, IS IT NOT?

WHERE ARE THE SO-CALLED *FANTASTIC FOUR*?

AH, I *SEE* THEN...

THE FANTASTICAL *WHO*?

I'VE BEEN DELIVERING THE MAIL ON THIS ROUTE SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, SONNY AND I CAN'T SAY AS I'VE *EVER* HEARD OF THAT THERE COMPANY NAME.

...THEIR LITTLE SCHEME IS SO *OBVIOUS* NOW.

YOU... YOU'RE...

WILLIE, OLD BOY, IT'S FINALLY TIME TO MAKE THAT APPOINTMENT WITH THE OPTOMETRIST.

HELL'S KITCHEN--A NEIGHBORHOOD ALSO KNOWN AS CLINTON TO A RARE FEW OF THE LOCALS--

--SOMEHOW SEEMS DARKEST ON THE SUNNIEST OF DAYS.

YET EVEN THE DUSKY GLOOM OF A DIMLY-LIT BACK ALLEY IS NO OBSTCLE TO THIS PARTICULAR TEENAGER, BLIND TO THE MOST COMMON COLORS OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM...

...AND ALL-TOO PAINFULLY AWARE OF EVERY OTHER DETAIL.

WHOAA!

WHAT THE--?

PATH WAS CLEAR A SECOND AGO, I'M SURE OF IT. BUT I TRIPPED OVER SOMETHING JUST NOW...

...SOMETHING THAT MOVED.

HELLO...

...IS ANYONE THERE?!

TAP! TAP! TAP!

TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM... FROM TIMESTREAM... SEPARATED FROM OTHERS

H-HELP ME... PLEASE...

YOU MUST HELP ME...

...REACH STARK TOWNHOUSE.

NO PROBLEM THERE, *EVERYONE* KNOWS WHERE N.Y.C.'S FAVORED FAMILY LIVES. *CHOICEST* PIECE OF REAL ESTATE ON THE ISLAND, IN FACT.

BUT FIRST THINGS *FIRST*, PAL.

MY NAME'S *MATT MURDOCK*...

...WHO--OR *WHAT*--ARE YOU?!

AT HOME AROUND THE FIREPLACE...

...HOWARD AND MARIA STARK SPEND A RELAXING AFTERNOON TOGETHER.

SHARING SMALL-TALK, CATCHING UP ON CORRESPONDENCE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND KEEPING ABREAST OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MARKET-- BOTH HERE AND ABROAD--

--BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THE CREAM OF SOCIETY'S CROP.

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE LIFE.

WITH ONE EXCEPTION...

ANTHONY SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE.

DAILY BUGLE

I CERTAINLY *HOPE SO*, 'RIA...

...I'M ANXIOUS TO GET HIS *INPUT* ON THE NEW CIRCUIT-BOARD DESIGNS BEFORE WE GO INTO PRODUCTION.

AND I'M HOPING HE'LL HAVE THE MORNING FREE FOR A COUPLE OF SETS AT THE CLUB, BEFORE LUNCH AT MORGAN'S AND--

NOT TOMORROW, SWEETHEART. WE'VE ALL GOT TICKETS FOR THE *LINCOLN CENTER* MATINEE, REMEMBER...?

ahem

SORRY, JARVIS. WE WERE GETTING A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY WITH OURSELVES THERE, WEREN'T WE...?

UNDERSTANDABLE, SIR, BUT IT'S ABOUT SUPPER. AND ONE OTHER THING I SHOULD PROBABLY MENTION...

LET'S *INDULGE* THE BOY SOME ON HIS FIRST NIGHT BACK, ALRIGHT...?

WE'LL START WITH THOSE TINY HOT DOGS IN PASTRY HE ENJOYED SO MUCH AT SCIENCE CAMP THAT SUMMER...

...FOLLOWED BY COOK'S SPECIAL SOUP RECIPE FOR--

BEEP!

BEEP!

THE *AMULET* HE GAVE ME...

WORKS LIKE A CHARM!

HI, MOM...

KLIK

...LOOKING GOOD.

FIGURED YOU AND JARVIS WOULD BE MAKING UP THE DINNER MENU ABOUT NOW, SO I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW TO SET AN *EXTRA* PLATE.

LOOKING FORWARD TO *MEETING HER, DARLING.*

TRAFFIC'S A LITTLE BACKED-UP ON THE WEST SIDE--AS USUAL--BUT WE SHOULD BE THERE SOON ENOUGH.

DON'T DAWDLE, ANTHONY...

...YOU KNOW HOW *ANXIOUS* YOUR FATHER GETS.

THAT'S NOT *FAIR*, MARIA. LET *ME* SPEAK TO HIM BEFORE YOU HANG UP...

PERHAPS THIS *ISN'T* THE BEST TIME TO TELL THEM ABOUT--

EMMA...!?

THERE YOU ARE, MR. JARVIS.

THE PANTRY DOOR GOT *LOCKED* SOMEHOW, SO I HAD TO GO ROUND UP AN OLD KEY FROM THE--

NO!

ARE YOU *DAFT*, WOMAN?

THE PLANTS IN THE CONSERVATORY ARE FAIRLY SCREAMING FOR WATER, AND THE LIBRARY LOOKS LIKE IT HASN'T BEEN DUSTED IN *WEEKS*.

BUT I THOUGHT...I MEAN...

DIDN'T YOU *TELL* ME TO INVENTORY SUPPLIES TODAY...?

HATED TO DO THAT TO THE POOR GIRL, BUT I COULD HARDLY LEAVE HER TO FIND--

EMPTY!?

RIGHT, *YES*.

BUT YOU SIMPLY MUST LEARN TO *PRIOR-ITIZE* CHORES IF YOU INTEND TO STAY ON AS A MEMBER OF THIS STAFF, YOUNG LADY.

MEANWHILE...

YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY ANSWERED MY QUESTION YET, BUDDY.

WHO *ARE* YOU ANYWAY...?

JUST ANOTHER MAN LIKE ANYONE ELSE...

...AN ACTOR, WEARING A THEATER COSTUME.

NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

NOT WITH THAT VOICE. *AND* NOT WITHOUT ANY DISCERNABLE HEARTBEAT THAT I CAN RECOG-NIZE.

WAIT'LL *STICK* HEARS ABOUT--

HEY!

WATCH WHERE YER GOIN', BOOZERS...

...OR IT'S *CLOBBERIN'* TIME!

NOW, *BEN*...

DON'T YOU START ON ME, *SUZIE*.

REED WAS EXPECTIN' US A HALF HOUR AGO FER HIS TOP-SECRET POW-WOW, AND HE'S BOUND TO HAVE A LECTURE UP AN' RUNNIN' ALREADY...

BACK AT THE TOWN-HOUSE...

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* UP HERE?!!

YOU WERE *SUPPOSED* TO STAY IN THE PANTRY, WAIT UNTIL *I* COULD DECIDE WHAT TO TELL THE MR. AND MRS.

SORRY, FRIEND, BUT WE COULDN'T *AFFORD* TO DELAY ANY LONGER.

WE'VE COME BACK TO THIS TIME FOR A *REASON*--THAT MUCH WE KNOW--BUT OUR MEMORIES ARE RETURNING TOO SLOWLY.

BUT THIS IS MASTER ANTHONY'S ROOM. YOU HAVE *NO* RIGHT TO--

IF SOMETHING *HERE* CAN HELP US...

CALM DOWN, PLEASE...

...I BROUGHT THEM UP HERE.

I REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL OF THIS HOUSE--EVERY SINGLE NOOK AND CRANNY, ACTUALLY--IF NOTHING ELSE.

BUT I *STILL* DON'T UNDER-STAND.

IN ALL MY LONG HISTORY WITH THE STARKS, I'VE NEVER LIED TO THEM.

NEVER.

WHY DIDN'T I *TELL* THEM ABOUT YOU PEOPLE...?

PERHAPS BECAUSE YOU SENSE--YOU *KNOW*, EVEN--WE'RE TELLING THE TRUTH.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I HAVE TO GET YOU *OUT* OF HERE BEFORE MASTER ANTHONY RETURNS FROM M.I.T..

SPRING BREAK, PRESUMABLY. BUT--

WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY?

THE FIFTEENTH, *MARCH* FIFTEENTH.

WHAT *DIFFERENCE* DOES IT MAKE--

THE IDES OF MARCH.

AND THAT CALENDER ON THE WALL...

THE *YEAR.*

OH LORD, *NO*--

--NO--

--THIS IS THE DAY MARIA STARK *DIED!*

YYEEEAAAA!!

DOWNSTAIRS...

ON THE *DOUBLE!*

IT SOUNDED LIKE--

"--EMMA!?"

THE *STARKS*, I ASSUME...?

HOWARD AND MARIA.

uhnn...

WHAP

DON'T BE *RIDICULOUS*, MAN.

I NEED ONLY *ONE* OF YOU ALIVE.

WHO THE *BLAZES* ARE YOU?!

HOW DO YOU KNOW OUR *NAMES*...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN OUR *HOME*?!

AND *ONLY* FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO GET ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS.

CALL AN AMBULANCE FOR THE GIRL, 'RIA, I'LL DEAL WITH THIS LUNA--

WHERE WILL I FIND YOUR *SON*, COW?

IS HE *HERE*, HIDING...?

HAVE THE DAMN-ABLE AVENGERS *COME* FOR HIM YET?

THE WH-WHO...?

WHY ARE YOU D-DOING THIS?

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH A-ANTHONY...?

WRONG RESPONSE, WITCH.

AND YOU GET NO SECOND CHANCES FROM--

THOK

TOBIAS!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE, MONSTER.

THE *SIGHT* OF YOU WAS ALL IT TOOK FOR US. WE REMEMBER EVERYTHING NOW...

...AND WE KNOW *EXACTLY* WHY WE'RE HERE.

HOW VERY UNFORTUNATE, CAPTAIN...

"...FOR YOU AND YOURS."

I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR HELP, MATTHEW.

WE'RE ALMOST THERE, CHUM.

AVOIDING MAIN AVENUES *TOOK* A BIT LONGER, BUT THE TOWNHOUSE IS JUST *AROUND* THE NEXT--

KA-BOOM!

HIT THE DECK!

IT APPEARS WE ARE ALREADY TOO LATE.

WAIT--!

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*?!

YOU *CAN'T* GO IN *THERE* NOW! THERE COULD BE *MORE* EXPLOSIONS OR--

STAY HERE AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN, MY YOUNG FRIEND...

"...UNTIL THE DUST HAS SETTLED."

YOW!

FWG

TNG

FWG

CRASH!

LOOK OU--

TONY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!

IT SOUNDED LIKE SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT...

TRY A *PILE-UP*, MERI. ALL THE WAY FROM HERE TO--

"--MY HOUSE."

AWAY FROM THE STARKS, TOBIAS!

OR WHAT, INSECTS...?!

DO YOU MEAN TO *LAUGH* ME TO DEATH WITH YOUR--

TOOM!

IZZT

HARDLY, DEVIL...

IZZT

...THESE PESTS PACK QUITE A *STING!*

AN IRRITATION AT WORST, WIDOW.

FOR THE FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS *RE-MAINING* TO YOU, AT LEAST.

KPOOM

A *DISTRACTION,* ACTUALLY.

ENOUGH TO DRAW YOUR FIRE FROM THE INNOCENTS.

POOM

POOM

DOLTS--!

KPOOM

NONE IN THIS HOUSE ARE INNO-CENT...

"...CERTAINLY NONE BY THE NAME OF STARK."

TONY!? WHERE ARE YOU *GOING?*

YOU *CAN'T* JUST--

NO CHOICE, MEREDITH. TRAF-FIC'S TOTALLY *GRIDLOCKED,* ALL THE CARS...

"...STOPPED DEAD."

NOW, WOMAN, WITH NONE LEFT TO CHALLENGE THIS ONE--

NOT SO QUICKLY, VILLAIN.

YOU HAVE YET TO CONTEND WITH ME.

KEEP YOUR *DISTANCE*, ABOMIN-ATION...

"...YOU ARE NOT MY TARGET TODAY."

HEY, *HOLD IT!*

YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE IN THERE--

"--ALONE!"

YOU CANNOT INSULT ME, TOBIAS.

AND YOU MOST ASSUREDLY SHALL NOT HALT MY ADVANCE.

HOW VERY *WRONG* YOU ARE, VISION.

UNLESS YOU CARE TO SEE MOTHER STARK'S NECK *SNAPPED* LIKE THE FRAGILE TWIG IT IS...

...HER EXISTENCE *ENDED* EVEN EARLIER THAN ITS APPOINTED TIME.

AND WITH THESE *TWO* IN MY POS-SESSION...

:akk:

THIS ONE THOUGHT NOT, AVENGER.

"...ALL ELSE THAT I NEED WILL *FOLLOW*."

J-JARVIS, WHO *ARE* THESE PEOPLE--?!

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

MY PARENTS...

...WHERE ARE MY PARENTS?!

A LONG HOUR LATER...

...AFTER THE SHORT VERSION OF THE STORY.

I'M TRYING TO TAKE IT ALL IN-- TO *UNDERSTAND* WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME--BUT...

...I REALLY *CAN'T* BELIEVE THIS, *ANY* OF IT.

AND IF IT *IS* TRUE...

...THEN IT'S *YOUR* FAULT. *ALL* OF YOU.

MY MOTHER AND FATHER HAVE BEEN *KIDNAPPED* BY A MANIAC-- SUFFERING WHO KNOWS WHAT AT HIS HANDS BY NOW--

--BECAUSE YOU CAME *BACK* IN TIME TO HERE.

AND FOR WHAT...?

TO ENLIST MY HELP IN SOME BIZARRE PLOT TO *SAVE* MY FUTURE SELF?

WHAT GAVE YOU THE *RIGHT* TO DO THIS...

...TO *ENDANGER* THE PEOPLE I LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD?

WE COULDN'T *NOT* DO IT, MASTER STARK.

ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SAY THIS BEFORE, YOU'RE THE SON I NEVER HAD...

...THE SON I COULD ALWAYS BE SO *PROUD* OF.

AND I *KNOW* YOUR PARENTS WOULD HAVE WANTED US TO TAKE THIS CHANCE, TO RISK WHATEVER IT TOOK-- ABSOLUTELY *ANY*THING-- TO HELP YOU.

JARVIS...?

HE'S TELLING THE *TRUTH*, MASTER ANTHONY...

...THERE'S NO DENYING IT ANYMORE.

THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I FEEL...

...THE WORDS I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO SAY ALOUD.

BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO *NOW*?!

HOW CAN I *FIND*--?

MY WATCH...

...AND MOM'S CAMEO!

I CAN TRACE HER *CAMEO!*

EASY ENOUGH TO *MICRO-WIRE* MY HOLO-WATCH TO THE ELECTRO-MAP...

...AND PROGRAM A NEW SUB-ROUTINE TO *BACK-TRACK* THE COMM-CAMEO'S TRANSMISSION SIGNAL.

SURE, SIMPLE AS "*BEOWULF*" WITHOUT THE CLIFF NOTES.

A MATCHING JEWELRY SET THAT *JAMES BOND* WOULD BE PROUD OF...?

THAT IS *SOOO* UNBELIEVABLY COOL!

NOTHING MORE THAN A *COMBINATION* FRESHMAN SCIENCE PROJECT/MOTHER'S DAY GIFT, REALLY...

...BUT MOM SEEMED TO LIKE IT, TOO.

JUST WISH *PROFESSOR SLAGHT* HAD BEEN *SO* IMPRESSED.

NOW IT'S JUST A MATTER OF *BOOSTING* THE POWER-RANGE INCREMENTALLY UNTIL--

VEEP

BINGO!

BUT I *DON'T* GET IT.

ISN'T THAT THE LITTLE *EUROPEAN* NATION THAT WAS IN THE *NEWS* JUST LAST WEEK? SOMETHING ABOUT BEING *TOPPLED* YET AGAIN...

...OVERTHROWN BY THIS YEAR'S *TIN SOLDIER* WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

WHY *THERE*, OF ALL PLACES?!

CAP...?

I *KNOW* WIDOW...

...I KNOW.

WE'LL CALL AHEAD FROM THE CAR, HAVE THEM PREP THE *STARK JET* FOR IMMEDIATE TAKE-OFF.

JUST NEED A FEW THINGS FROM HERE FIRST...

EXCELLENT! LET'S GET--

NO, BOY. *YOU'LL* STAY BEHIND WITH YOUNG JARVIS.

FORGET IT, LADY! NO WAY I'M BACKING OUT NOW!

TRUST ME, MATT, YOUR TIME WILL *COME SOON* ENOUGH...

A SHORT TIME LATER, HALF A WORLD AWAY-- IN SPIRIT AS WELL AS DISTANCE--

--AN ANCIENT CASTLE STRONGHOLD ONLY RECENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF DICTATORS AND DESPOTS...

...IS ALREADY ENTERTAINING GUESTS.

UNINVITED GUESTS.

H-HOWARD--?

WHERE IS IT?!

WHERE--?!

THIS ONE CAN *SENSE* IT SOMEWHERE NEARBY, *FEEL* ITS ACHINGLY FAMILIAR ENERGIES!

I *MUST* HAVE IT!

HUSH, MARIA.

HE'S DISTRACTED FOR NOW. AND I WON'T LET HIM HURT YOU. I SWEAR...

WHAT IF MY FAMILY CAN'T FIND ME, IF THEY *NEVER* COME FOR ME AT ALL?

SKRAAK

THIS ONE *MUST* DISCOVER WHERE HE'S HIDDEN IT BEFORE-

VROOOOOM

THAT *SOUND*...!?

YOUR USE-FULNESS NEARS AN END, HUMANS...

"...MY *PREY* APPROACHES."

TRACKER IN MY GAUNTLET'S *ALREADY* PINPOINTED MOM'S POSITION, GANG--

--DIRECTLY *BELOW.*

QUICK AND QUIET, TEAM...

...LIKE WE PLANNED.

YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART, TONY, BUT WE CAN'T RISK LOSING YOU NOW.

YOU'RE *NEEDED* IN THE FUTURE, THE KEY TO EVERYTHING WE DARED.

WAIT HERE WITH JARVIS, PROTECT EACH OTHER UNTIL--

DON'T *EVEN* TRY IT, WIDOW!

I'M NOT MURDOCK--NOT JUST SOME BLIND *DEFENSELESS* KID--

--THOSE ARE MY PARENTS DOWN THERE, IN DANGER FROM THAT MANIAC!

I WAS-- WILL BE-- A HERO IN MY TIME, RIGHT...?

AND THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE *PRESENT!*

I'M NOT ABOUT TO *LEAVE* YOU UP HERE ALONE, JARVIS.

HOP ON *BOARD.*

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE ABAN-DONED STEALTH...

SKRAASH

...FOR STORM!

PERFECT.

MY QUARRY IS DELIVERED TO MY FEET.

MOM... DAD...IT'S *OKAY* NOW, IT'S OKAY!

WE'LL GET YOU OUTTA HERE BEFORE--

TONY, NO!

RUN, BOY--!

YOU WON'T STOP US, YOU REALIZE...?

THIS WHELP WILL *NEVER* BE ABLE TO *HELP* YOU.

HE'S OURS ALREAD--

NOT BY A *LONG SHOT,* CHUMP!

NOT YET...

AND NOT *EVER*--

--IF *WE* CAN HELP IT.

SADLY, CAPTAIN--

YEAARGH!

FEEDBACK... FUSED...FIST...

--YOU *CANNOT!*

AND *NEVER* COULD.

THIS ONE WILL FIND WHAT I REQUIRE HERE...

"...AND BURY YOU ALL IN MY WAKE."

KRAK-KOOM!

DAD--

--MOM--

--LOOK OUT!

TONY...

...GET DOWN, BOY!

KRAASH

ENOUGH, DEMON!

NOOOO

IS THIS WHAT THEY CRAVED, MURDERER?

POOM

WILL YOUR BELOVED MANTIS AND KANG BE SATISFIED NOW?!

IS YOUR TWISTED KIN'S THIRST FOR VENGEANCE FINALLY SATED, TOBIAS?

HAS ENOUGH BLOOD BEEN SHED FOR THEM...

TOOM

TOOM

...FOR YOU?!

POOM

DON'T WORRY, MOM, DON'T WORRY! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE NOW, PROMISE.

SOON AS I CHECK ON--

NO, TONY... TOO LATE... FOR YOUR FATHER... ALREADY...

AND I CAN'T... CAN'T...

YOU'RE TOO GOOD, SON...

...TOO GOOD

PLEASE...

HANG ON, MOM... PLEASE...

AVENGERS, LOOK TO THE TWIN--!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING, FORMING IN THE AIR ABOVE HIM...

AT LAST, TOBIAS.

WE FINALLY LOCATED YOU BY HONING IN ON THE TEMPORAL ENERGIES THIS ONE KNEW YOU WOULD SEEK OUT, FOLLOWING THE SURGING TIME-WAVES TO THEIR SOURCE.

MALACHI...

DIDN'T THINK... AFRAID...

...YOU WOULDN'T FIND ME...

THE CROSSING WAS DIFFICULT INDEED, BROTHER, NEAR IMPOSSIBLE WITH LUNA DEAD AND NEUT LOST TO US.

BUT I'D HAVE SEARCHED FOREVER, IF NECESSARY. THIS ONE WOULD NOT DREAM OF GOING HOME WITHOUT YOU.

HOLD IT, WORM...

...NO ONE'S GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL--

YOU MUST KNOW BY NOW, TOBIAS...

...WE WOULD NEVER HAVE GIVEN UP ON YOU.

UHFF

GONE.

VANISHED BACK INTO THE NIGHT AGAIN.

BUT IT'S NOT OVER, VISION.

AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES-- GO WHEREVER YOU LEAD--TO HELP YOU STOP THOSE MONSTERS!

I WILL BE AN AVENGER, AND MY PARENTS WILL BE THE FIRST AVENGED!

BUT...

BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO CHASE THEM NOW.

NO WAY TO REACH THEM IN THE FUTURE THEY'VE RUN TO HIDE--

ON THE CONTRARY, STRANGERS...

...I BELIEVE I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THAT REGARD.

DOCTOR DOOM--!

WE'VE BEEN *EXPECTING* YOU, TYRANT.

THEN I AM AFRAID YOU HAVE *ME* AT A DISADVANTAGE.

I RECOGNIZE CAPTAIN AMERICA, OF COURSE, BUT YOU OTHERS ARE *NEW* TO ME...

...ALTHOUGH I *KNOW* THAT YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE.

CLIK!

AND I DO NOT *WANT* YOU HERE.

DOOM'S TIME-PLATFORM!?

OF COURSE, THAT MUST BE WHAT TOBIAS WAS--

QUIET.

YOU AND YOUR COMRADES HAVE DONE MUCH DAMAGE HERE ALREADY, AND I WILL **BROOK** NO MORE.

GO.

I HAVE SET THE CONTROLS MYSELF, FRIENDS.

ALL IS IN ORDER.

FOR **NOW**, MEDDLERS.

BUT WE WILL MOST CERTAINLY MEET **AGAIN**.

...SOONER THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE.

SOONER THAN YOU THINK, VON DOOM...

MECHANICAL MEN, WARRIOR WOMEN, AND LEGENDS COME TO LIFE.

WHAT A TRULY **WONDROUS** WORLD THIS IS.

AND SOON-- SO VERY, VERY SOON--

--IT WILL BE ALL **MINE**...!

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